

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /192 W

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R 191248Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8073

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3025

E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR ENRG OAU

SUBJ: LONRHO AFFAIR

REFS: (A) DAR 513; (B) ADDIS 1911; C) ACCRA 965;

(D) LAGOS 1925; (E) KHARTOUM 574; (F) COTONOU 421;

(G) ABIDJAN 2065 (ALL NOTAL)

1. AS REPORTED IN PRESS, CONTROVERSIAL OIL CONSULTANCY CONTRACT
BETWEEN OAU AND LONRHO ABROGATED MARCH 15. FROM AVAILABLE
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EVIDENCE, DECISION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MUTUAL; TIMING RELATED

TO PRESENCE IN ADDIS OF BOTH LONRHO REP AND SUDANESE FONMIN
MANSOUR KHALID.

2. CONSENSUS EMERGING HERE THAT, WHILE OAU SEC GEN EKANGAKI
HAD LEGAL AUTHORITY TO SIGN CONTRACT, LONRHO WAS POOR CHOICE
ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. OAU SOURCES ADMIT LATTER POINT BUT CLAIM
OTHER QUALIFIED CONSULTANTS UNABLE/UNWILLING TO UNDERTAKE TASK
OR EVEN MORE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE. IN FACT, AMONG INVITED
BIDDERS ONLY EAST EUROPEANS RESPONDED, IN ADDITION TO LONRHO.
QUESTION WHETHER CONTRACT WILL BE RENEGOTIATED, AND IF SO WITH
WHOM, APPARENTLY STILL UP IN AIR.

3. AFFAIR GENERATED CONSIDERABLE BITTERNESS WITHIN OAU. AT ONE
POINT THERE WAS INFORMED TALK ABOUT REVELATIONS OF TAPE
RECORDINGS OF SECRET OAU MEETINGS, AN OAU "WATERGATE."
OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE THAT TANZANIAN FONMIN MALECELA (STILL
FURIOUS OVER CONTINUING DISPUTE ABOUT ALC FINANCES) AND HIS
ALLIES WILL DEMAND THEIR "POUND OF FLESH" BY FURTHER
HUMILIATION OF EKANGAKI, BUT THAT LATTER WILL STAY IN OFFICE.
HOW THIS MAY AFFECT OAU OPERATIONS OR POLICIES STILL UNCLEAR.

4. IT ALSO WIDELY BELIEVED HERE THAT BLACK AFRICAN FRIENDS
OF LONRHO, WHILE EMBARRASSED BY PUBLICITY, UNLIKELY TO
ABROGATE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH FIRM. WYMAN

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